

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania

REPORT

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Unidentified Infantry Unit near Tirana,

DATE DISTR. 27 FEB 1963

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REFERENCES RD

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DATE OF INFO.

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PLACE & DATE ACQ.

FIELD REPORT

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1. In December 1962, an unidentified Albanian Army unit was observed in a fenced-in area southwest of Tirana. The insignia worn by personnel belonging to the unit indicated that it was an infantry unit with a group of engineers attached. There were about 100-150 men assigned to the unit at the time of observation, although the base appeared to be set up to accommodate a larger number.
2. The barbed-wire fence surrounding the installation was in poor condition. Military and police personnel performed guard duty. Unit equipment included personal arms (revolvers and automatic rifles) and three armored vehicles; although the latter were always covered when observed, they appeared to be of the Soviet-manufactured self-propelled SU-76 model 42 type. There were also two GAZ-51 vehicles, in good condition; one medium-size truck, in poor condition; one GAZ-676 passenger car; and four motor-cycles with side-cars.
3. Within the compound, limited communications facilities were provided by a group of engineers which, in December 1962, was engaged in setting up a telephone system (and probably also a radio-telegraph system). Wooden telephone poles and coils of insulated cable were observed in the courtyard.
4. In addition to normal camp activities, the unit dispatched about 12 men daily into Tirana to act as guards for various buildings, such as homes of officials, ministries, etc. This guard was changed at 4:30 p.m. The men seemed to be well disciplined and performed their assigned duties conscientiously.

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